

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-64. (Cancelled)

65. (previously presented) An intravaginal device comprising:

a guide rail having a proximal end, a distal end, and an outer surface extending between the proximal and distal ends thereof, wherein the outer surface of said guide rail includes a threaded section;

a collar mounted on the outer surface of said guide rail and having an internal lumen that allows sliding movement of said collar over the threaded section of said guide rail;

a driving member extending between said collar and the proximal end of said guide rail, said driving member having internal threads for engaging the threaded section of said guide rail;

a tissue grasping assembly including a first elongated element connected with the outer surface of said guide rail, and a second elongated element pivotally connected with said first elongated element and having a tissue grasping element at a distal end thereof; and

a medical instrument slidably mounted on the outer surface of said guide rail between said collar and the connection of said first elongated element with the outer surface of said guide rail, wherein rotation of said driving member in a first direction slides said collar toward the distal end of said guide rail which, in turn, urges said medical instrument toward the distal end of said guide rail.

66. (currently amended) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 65, wherein said guide rail has a longitudinal axis extending between the proximal and distal ends thereof, and wherein said driving member is rotatable about the longitudinal axis whereby the internal threads of said driving member mate with the threaded section on the outer surface of said guide rail.

67. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said collar is adapted to slide over the outer surface of said guide rail and along the longitudinal axis of said guide rail.

68. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 65, wherein said driving member has a proximal end accessible at the proximal end of said guide rail.

69. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 65, wherein said first elongated element is connected with the outer surface of said guide rail between said collar and the distal end of said guide rail.

70. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 69, further comprising a connecting plate extending between a distal end of said first elongated member and the outer surface of said guide rail for connecting said first elongated member with the outer surface of said guide rail.

71. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 70, wherein said medical instrument includes an attachment sleeve for slidably mounting said medical instrument on the outer surface of said guide rail.

72. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 71, wherein said attachment sleeve at least partially surrounds the outer surface of said guide rail for contacting and sliding over the outer surface of said guide rail.

73. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 72, wherein a distal end of said collar is adapted to contact said attachment sleeve for urging said attachment sleeve and said medical instrument to slide over the outer surface of said guide rail toward the distal end of said guide rail.

74. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 73, wherein said connecting plate includes a surface adapted to contact said attachment sleeve for halting sliding movement of said attachment collar toward the distal end of said guide rail.

75. (previously presented) An intravaginal device comprising:

a guide rail having proximal and distal ends, a longitudinal axis extending between the proximal and distal ends, and an outer surface extending between the proximal and distal ends thereof, wherein the outer surface of said guide rail includes a threaded section;

a collar having an internal lumen aligned with the longitudinal axis of said guide rail and being adapted to allow sliding movement of said collar over the threaded section of said guide

rail;

a driving member mounted on the outer surface of said guide rail and extending between said collar and the proximal end of said guide rail, said driving member having a distal end with internal threads for engaging the threaded section of said guide rail and a proximal end accessible at the proximal end of said guide rail;

a tissue grasping assembly including a first elongated element having a distal end connected with the outer surface of said guide rail, and a second elongated element pivotally connected with said first elongated element and having a tissue grasping element at a distal end thereof, wherein said driving member is advanceable toward the distal end of said guide rail for urging said collar to slide over the threaded section of said guide rail toward the distal end of said guide rail.

76. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 75, further comprising a medical instrument adapted to slide over the outer surface of said guide rail.

77. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 76, wherein said medical instrument includes an attachment sleeve in contact with the outer surface of said guide rail for coupling said medical instrument with said guide rail.

78. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 77, wherein said attachment sleeve at least partially surrounds the outer surface of said guide rail.

79. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 78, wherein said attachment sleeve contacts the outer surface of said guide rail during sliding movement of said medical instrument toward the distal end of said guide rail.

80. (currently amended) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim ~~79~~ 77, further comprising a connecting plate for interconnecting the distal end of said first elongated element with the outer surface of said guide rail, wherein said connecting plate includes a surface adapted to engage said attachment sleeve for halting distal sliding movement of said attachment sleeve toward the distal end of said guide rail.

81. (currently amended) An intravaginal device comprising:

a guide rail having a proximal end, a distal end, and an outer surface extending between the proximal and distal ends thereof, wherein the outer surface of said guide rail includes a threaded section;

a tissue grasping assembly coupled with said guide rail, said tissue grasping assembly including a first elongated element connected with the outer surface of said guide rail, and a second elongated element pivotally connected with said first elongated element and having a tissue grasping element at a distal end thereof;

a collar mounted on the outer surface of said guide rail and having an internal lumen adapted to slide over the threaded section of said guide rail;

a driving member mounted over the outer surface of said guide rail, said driving member having internal threads for engaging the threaded section of said guide rail; and

a medical instrument slidably mounted onto the outer surface of said guide rail between said driving member and the distal end of said guide rail, wherein said driving member is rotatable in a first direction for ~~advancing a distal end of said driving member~~ sliding said collar toward the distal end of said guide rail which, in turn, engages and urges said medical instrument to slide over the outer surface of said guide rail and toward the distal end of said guide rail.

82. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 81, wherein said guide rail has a longitudinal axis extending between the proximal and distal ends thereof, and wherein said medical device includes an attachment sleeve that at least partially surrounds the outer surface of said guide rail.

83. (currently amended) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 82, wherein said attachment sleeve is advanceable along the longitudinal axis of said guide rail as said driving member urges said collar and said medical instrument toward the distal end of said guide rail.

84. (previously presented) The intravaginal device as claimed in claim 82, wherein said driving member extends over the outer surface of said guide rail and along the longitudinal axis of said guide rail, and wherein said driving member is accessible at the proximal end of said guide rail.